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BOOK NOTES.

Concerning the Intelligence of Raccoons, by L. W. Cole. Reprinted from the Journal of Comparative Neurology and Psychology, May, 1907. Vol. XVII, No. 3. pp. 211-261.

The author has tried to determine what type of association the raccoon is able to form, the complexity and the permanency of its associations, and to ascertain whether mental images and the tendency to imitate are present in this animal. The original plan was to make observations upon the senses, instincts and habits of the raccoon in general, and to compare these observations with those made upon other mam-mals under similar experimental conditions. These observations, however, are omitted from this article. All were based upon six young raccoons—four males and two females. They learned to release fastenings, to discriminate form and color (when associated with brightness), to imitate, showed a good deal of power to learn from being put through an act; and the reactions to the present and mental images were marked. The coon, the author thinks, stands midway in the rapidity of the associations it forms between the monkey and the cat, being nearer the former in their complexity. Only after practice are motor associations permanent, and two types of learning and forgetting are clearly distinguished. The coon discriminates form, size, tone, and color when combined with intensity. There is no evidence that the coon imitates its fellows. Many of Mr. Cole's conclusions are confirmed by similar observations by Mr. H. B. Davis, published in the last number of the American Journal.

The Dancing Mouse, a study in animal behavior. By ROBERT M. YERKES. The Animal Behavior Series, Vol. I. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1907. pp. 290.

The writer treats the origin and history, feeding, breeding and development of the young and then turns to the special discussion of the behavior of the dancing mouse, equilibrium, dizziness, structural peculiarities, sense of hearing, sight, color, educability, etc. He also conducts the young mice to the labyrinth, tests their discrimination and the efficiency of various training methods, studies duration of habit, memory and relearning, individual, age and sex differences, inheritance of forms of behavior. It is an interesting and painstaking study and all those who care for this kind of work will await with interest later volumes of this series.

The Measurement of Variable Quantities, by Franz Boas. Archives of Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Methods. No. 5, June, 1906. New York, the Science Press. pp. 52.

This short monograph gives the substance of a course of lectures given by Prof. Boas for a number of years to students of anthropology, biology, and psychology at Columbia. Because of the small mathematical attainments of such students as a class, the treatment for the most part steers clear of the calculus. The reviewer with others is grateful to Dr. Boas for thus making his lectures generally accessible, but conscience compels him to say that since Dr. Boas has not been able to eliminate the natural difficulties and complexities of the sub-

ject along with the calculus, the non-mathematical student will not find the monograph easy reading. E. C. S.

Poetry and the Individual, an Analysis of the Imaginative Life in Relation to the Creative Spirit in Man and Nature, by HARTLEY BURR ALEXANDER. G. P. Putnam's Sons. New York and London, 1906. pp. x: 240.

The general character of this work can perhaps be most briefly indicated by saying that it is a modern work on the æsthetics of poetry conceived and executed in the spirit of Plato, and possessing much the same sort of excellencies and defects that characterize that master. The author says in his preface that the reason modern idealism is deficient in vital effectiveness is that its representatives have taken up the "cultivation of intellectual subtleties to the neglect of the practical idealism which their thought should really contain." "The philosophical need, then, is humanisation of philosophical interests. The book here offered aims by a sort of natural criticism to lay bare some of the instinctive modes of human thought and to assist the major philosophical task." The work is literary in manner—at times over much so—an essay always, rather than a scientific treatise,—evidently the work of a man of insight who has dealt at first hand with that of which he writes.

E. C. S.

Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution 1903-4. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1907. pp. 296, and 129 plates.

This is a very timely study of the aborigines of Porto Rico and neighboring islands by J. N. Fewkes, who also appends a paper on certain antiquities of Mexico. Both are copiously illustrated and, indeed, about half the volume is made up of full-page cuts besides those inserted in the text.

The Physician's Visiting List for 1908, published by P. Blakiston's Son and Co., Philadelphia. Price \$1.00.

A conveniently arranged physician's diary, address book and cash account, containing also other data likely to be useful to a forgetful man of medicine.

E. C. S.

The Lords of Ghostland. A history of the idol. By EDGAR SALTUS. Mitchel Kennerley, New York, 1907. pp. 215.

This work consists of chapters on Brahma, Ormuzd, Armon-Rå, Bel-Marduk, Jehovah, Zeus, Jupiter, Ne Plus Ultra.

Normal Activity of the White Rat at Different Ages, by James Rollin Slonaker. Reprinted from the Journal of Comparative Neurology and Psychology. July, 1907, Vol. XVII, No. 4. pp. 342-359.

Menschen- und Tierseele, von E. WASMANN. J. P. Bachem, Köln, 1907. pp. 16.

The New Mysticism. Six lectures given in Kensington, and at Cobham, Surrey, November, 1906, by ADELA CURTIS. Curtis & Davison, London, 1906. pp. 196.

Philosophical Problems in the Light of Vital Organization, by Edmund Montgomery. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1907. pp. 462.

Shake-Speare England's Ulysses, by LATHAM DAVIS. G. E. Stechert & Co., New York.